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WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, March 26, 1894.

The Academy of Sciences at Dijon once asked of their Municipality that all houses in the commune which deserved to be historical might be marked by commemorative inscriptions. The Council, we are told, readily acceded to the request, and among the birth-places and residences thus designated are those of Buffon, Crébillon and Marshal Tavannes.

More recently—in 1886—the City of Albany celebrated the 200th anniversary of its corporate existence. The wisest act of the authorities on this occasion, certainly the only act which will perpetuate this celebrated anniversary, was the designation or marking by bronze tablets of the historic buildings and localities in the ancient city. Forty-two such tablets were permanently located, designating, among others, the location of *Fort Orange*, 1623, and, near by, the site of the *earliest church* and the *Schuyler Mansion*, erected by Gen. Bradstreet in 1762; Washington, Franklin, Gates, De Rochambeau and Lafayette were entertained here, also Gens. Burgoyne and Riedesel as guests—though prisoners of war. Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler were married there in 1780. The site of *Fort Frederick*, 1676. *The birth-place of Philip Livingston*, one of the Signers. *The residence of Anneke Janse Bogardus*, 1663, the former owner of Trinity Church

property, New York. *The oldest building* standing, built 1667. *The birth-place of Gen. Philip Schuyler* and Ann Elizabeth Schuyler, the wife of Hamilton. *The site of the printing house* of Webster's famous Readers and Spelling Book and Almanac and the first Albany newspaper. *The site of the first brick building*, said to have been erected in America. *The first stone house in Albany*, where Washington was presented with the freedom of the City in 1782 and 1783. *The location of the city gates*. The first *Van Rensselaer Manor-house*. *The second City Hall*, erected in 1705, in which the famous Congress of 1754 met.

The Memorial Association of the District of Columbia has been recently organized for the purpose (1) of preserving the most noteworthy houses at the Capital that have been made historic by the residence of the nation's greatest men; (2) of suitably marking, by tablets or otherwise, the houses and places throughout the city of chief interest. The title to any historic houses or places preserved by the labors of the Association will vest in the United States.

The first effort of this Association will be to purchase the house in which President Lincoln died. It will be restored to the condition it then was, both externally and internally. The Association has a lease of the premises, with the option of purchase. The house now contains about 2,500 relics of Lincoln. Other historic objects that may be purchased or marked with tablets are: *The first tavern in the District*, located in Georgetown, where Gen. Washington met the architects, commissioners and landowners to arrange for the survey of the District and the purchase

and transfer of the property to the Government ; *the Octagon House* on 18th Street, where President Madison resided after the burning of the "White House," and where the treaty of Ghent was signed. *The first dwelling built on Lafayette Square.* The lot was purchased by Commodore Decatur in 1819, who built on it a large mansion. Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore Barron in 1820. Subsequent occupants have been Clay, Van Buren, Edward Livingston, Sir Charles Vaughan, Baron de Neuville, Howell Cobb, J. P. Benjamin and John A. and James G. King. *The residence of the poet Joel Barlow.* Robert Fulton was a frequent visitor at this house, and here began his experiments in steam navigation on Rock Creek. *David Burns' cabin* and the *Van Ness house*, not excelled in its day by any private dwelling in the country. It is said to have cost \$75,000, a very large sum in that day. The bricks for it were brought from England. The marble mantels were sculptured by Thorwaldsen. Mosaics were let into the walls, and costly woods added their share to the general sumptuousness of the place. Bevans' plantation covered the largest portion of the present business section of Washington, and descended in 1802 to his only child, who married General John P. Van Ness, a Representative in Congress from New York. *The house owned and occupied by Mrs. James Madison*, and after her death by Admiral Charles Wilkes of the famed "Exploring Expedition." In 1862 it was the headquarters of Gen. McClellan. John J. Crittenden occupied it at one time, and also General Belknap, when Secretary of War. *The mansion occupied by the late Mr. Blaine*, built by Com-

modore Rodgers. It has been occupied also by Chief-Justice Taney and James K. Paulding; and here Seward resided when the attempt to take his life was made by Payne. *The house occupied by John C. Calhoun* while he was Secretary of War under Monroe, situated on Georgetown Heights, as is also *Tudor Place*, built on the plan of the Mount Vernon Mansion, and occupied by the granddaughter of Martha Washington. *On the corner of 30th and M Streets* was once the most popular hotel of the first half of the century. Louis Phillippe, Humboldt, Fulton, Talleyrand, Irving, John Randolph were guests there. A prominent florist now occupies the site. *The first school-house in Washington*, which was located at the S. E. corner of 14th and G Streets. Thomas Jefferson built it for a stable when he was Secretary of State. In another section of the city is a *house built and occupied by Stephen A. Douglas*, and afterwards by Justice Joseph P. Bradley, of the Supreme Court. Near by, *the house given by New York friends to General Grant*, where he lived until he removed to the White House, when it became the home of Gen. Sherman. *The home of the great financier* of the Rebellion, Salmon P. Chase, now a club-house for wealthy and prominent Hebrews, and not far from it, the last Washington house of Webster, now used for law offices.

Among the Directors of the Memorial Association are Chief-Justice Fuller, Gen. Schofield, Prof. Langley, John Hay, C. C. Glover and Teunis S. Hamlin. These, and other gentlemen,—18 in all—are appointed under a Resolution of Congress by the President, Vice-President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Their term of service is three years, with no compensation.

It has been proposed that the city residence in Baltimore of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the Maryland "Signer," be purchased for the city and a public school erected on the site. Coupled with this proposition is another, that a tablet be placed on the building to commemorate the public services of Maryland's fearless patriot.

The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Baltimore took place on the steps of the Court House which stood on what is now Monument Square and the location where the Battle Monument now stands. Provision is being made for a suitable tablet to commemorate this event, to be placed probably on the railing surrounding the Battle Monument.

The National Congress of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, composed of about 500 delegates from thirty State organizations, will meet in Washington, April 30. This Society strongly favors the erection of tablets and monuments, as object lessons in patriotism. The erection of a Maryland Revolutionary monument has been undertaken by the Maryland branch of this organization. The Maryland Society also contemplates the erection of additional bronze tablets to mark sites of historic interest.

The Society of Colonial Wars (Baltimore) celebrated its second anniversary known as "Colonists' Day," and the 260th anniversary of the first landing on Maryland soil of Leonard Calvert, at the rooms of the Maryland Historical Society, March 26th.

A movement has been started to restore as far as

possible to its original appearance the old Senate Chamber in the State House at Annapolis, in which room General Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Many of the articles of furniture then in use are still in existence, although scattered quite widely. The architectural features can be restored without difficulty.

Mr. Frank B. Mayer, one of the committee to estimate the cost of restoring the Senate Chamber to its former appearance and to report suggestions for the restoration, said :

“ The ceremony of Washington’s resignation of his commission as Commander in-Chief of the Continental Armies, which took place in the State House at Annapolis in 1783, was conducted with all the decorum and dignity peculiar to the time and befitting so grand an example of patriotic duty. It had been arranged by Congress that he should enter the hall accompanied by his aides, who were to remain standing beside him during the ceremony, but the repugnance to personal pomp on the part of Washington seems to have dispensed with this, as well as other proposed ceremonies. He simply entered the hall accompanied by the Secretary of the Senate.

“ The President of the Senate and all the members of Congress were seated with their hats on ‘as representatives of the sovereignty of the Union.’ All other spectators were standing and uncovered. The ladies occupied the gallery overlooking the same. When the General arose to deliver his address he bowed to Congress, and also when he retired, ‘which they returned by uncovering without bowing.’ ”

The General Society of the Sons of the Revolution propose to visit Annapolis April 19 and hold a session in this historic chamber.

Senator McPherson, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, has introduced a bill appropriating \$50,000 for a bronze statue on the grounds of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., of George Bancroft, the founder of the school, and formerly Secretary of the Navy.

When on March 5th the City of Annapolis celebrated its 200th anniversary as the State Capital, Mr. James W. Thomas of Cumberland told the story of the rise and fall of the ancient city of St. Mary's, the first capital of Maryland. The territory of Maryland having been purchased from the Indians, Governor Calvert in 1634 proclaimed formal possession and named its first town St. Mary's. The first General Assembly of the colony met at St. Mary's in 1635, and the legislation enacted during the sixty-one years in which St. Mary's was the seat of government forms to a great extent the foundation and outlines of the present legal, civil and social structure of Maryland. In 1695 the General Assembly began its first session at the present capital. From this date St. Mary's declined until in 1708 it ceased to be the county seat. The same year it lost its privilege of sending delegates to the General Assembly, and soon after lost its rank as a city. Its population gradually departed; its old fort sank to the level of the earth, its houses one by one fell to ruin, and in a comparatively short time nothing remained save the old State House, and a few of the more durable buildings, the latter used as homesteads for *farms*, into which the site of the old city became converted.

Recently the State of Maryland, in order to perpetuate the foundation lines of its first State House, planted at each of its sixteen corners a massive granite marker. St. Mary's has disappeared from view more entirely than Thebes or Palmyra.

The centennial of the incorporation of Baltimore occurs in 1897, when it is proposed to celebrate the

event by an exhibition illustrative of the city's achievements and progress.

In no other part of the country are historical records more interesting and important than in the District of Columbia. Its history is an epitome of that of the country.

An organization has recently been instituted under the name of the Columbia Historical Society, having for its object an effort for the systematic preservation of the history of Washington and its vicinity, "and by public addresses and printed publications to diffuse interest in historical matters and bring together the data for history of the District, not simply as one of the territorial divisions of the Union, but as the site of the National Capital." We have already the Memorial Association, in the interest of historic site and individuals, an Association of Oldest Inhabitants, the Washington Monument Association, and the American Historical Society, the latter not confined to local interests.

The credit of organizing the Columbia Historical Society belongs to W. J. McGee, now in charge of the Bureau of Ethnology, and known everywhere for great energy and for the high character of his work. In the list of founders are the names of Dr. G. Brown Goode, Prof. Langley, Worthington C. Ford, Henry Adams, John G. Nicolay, John Hay, Bishop Keane, Major Powell, E. Francis Riggs, Chief-Justice Fuller, William T. Harris.

The second Bulletin of the Bureau of Rolls and Library of the Department of State contains a calendar of the correspondence of James Monroe (371 pages), preceded by a chronological record of the life

of Monroe. This key to the extensive correspondence of Monroe is especially valuable on account of the many offices of public trust which he filled. An index carefully prepared very much enhances its usefulness. The manuscripts were acquired by the Government by purchase in 1849. The sum paid was \$20,000. The preparation of this calendar and index was intrusted to Mr. Walter Manton, long a valued assistant in the Bureau.

Congress has from time to time acquired by purchase a very large proportion of the manuscripts of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and Monroe, but by no means all. Very important additions to nearly all these collections, as well as papers of other Revolutionary patriots and statesmen, have been lost to the Government owing to indifference of officials or neglect of Congress. In some cases such collections have been scattered all over the country with the aid of the auctioneer, or permanently passed into the archives of other libraries.

Recently the original copy of the Declaration of Independence was withdrawn from public exhibition in the State Department Library, made into a roll, and placed in a tin box for filing with the archives of the Government. The rapid fading of the text of the Declaration and the deterioration of the parchment on which it is engrossed, from exposure to the light and on account of age, render it impracticable for the Department to allow it to be exhibited or handled longer. In lieu of the original document a fac-simile will be placed on exhibition.

ARCTIC NOTES.—There was recently quite an Arctic picture in and about the Capitol. A party of Eskimos—men, women and babies—robed in furs from head to foot, were before the Committee on Agriculture, accompanied by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who is engaged in educational work in Alaska, Miner W. Bruce, in charge of the reindeer station, and Prof. Otis T. Mason, ethnologist, anthropologist, etc. Within view of the committee room was a tall and vigorous reindeer, and further down the street a pack of Eskimo dogs.

These object lessons were for the purpose of impressing upon Congress the importance of establishing additional experiment stations in Alaska for educational purposes, and for the further introduction of reindeer. The hearing closed with a native song, in which the babies joined.

Miss Kate Field, journalist, who has sojourned in Alaska, and seems quite familiar with the customs and ethics of the natives, has also been appealing through lectures for the promotion of the race.

Another party of surveyors is to be sent out this season to continue the researches and surveys along the intricate coast line of East Alaska. This work, begun last year, is preliminary to final negotiations with Great Britain for the settlement of the important boundary question. The northern part of the boundary, extending from the neighborhood of Mt. St. Elias along the 141st meridian west from Greenwich to the Arctic Ocean, has already been astronomically fixed at a sufficient number of points to serve all present purposes. The work on which the surveyors will be engaged during the coming season is to ascertain and mark the

points at which the line of ten marine leagues (nearly thirty-five miles) crosses the water courses that can be ascended from the sea. A vast extent of territory is involved in the controversy.

When Mr. Israel Russell's second visit to Mt. St. Elias determined the height of that mountain at 18,010 feet, it established its claim for a while as the highest mountain peak in North America. But just at that time a new determination of the altitude of a famous mountain in Mexico was undertaken by Dr. J. T. Scovell and was so successfully carried out that the height of this mountain, Orizaba, became known with a degree of accuracy exceeding any previous determination. Dr. Scovell's measurement gave for the height of Orizaba 18,300 feet, thus putting it 300 feet above Mt. St. Elias.

Dr. Mendenhall says that only within a few months the interesting discovery has been made that there were several peaks not many miles from Elias, that were more than a thousand feet higher. It is curious to know that the highest mountains on the continent of North America, so far as is now known, were discovered by browsing around in a table of logarithms.

The story is briefly this, says Dr. Mendenhall: "While Mr. McGrath's party was at Yakutat Bay and elsewhere in the neighborhood of Mt. St. Elias, in addition to taking horizontal and vertical angles on that peak, all other prominent peaks in the vicinity were observed upon, thus accumulating material for the calculation of their heights and distances. Among these was a group of three summits, possibly belonging to the same mountain, which had been seen by most

explorers in that quarter, and the great height of which had especially attracted the attention of Russell. Concerning it, he says: 'The clouds parting towards the northeast revealed several giant peaks not before seen, some of which seem to rival in height St. Elias itself. One stranger, rising in three white domes far above the clouds, was especially magnificent.' In honor of the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada, Russell named this Mount Logan."

For some months Mr. McGrath has been engaged in the reduction of all observations made by his party in the St. Elias region. On computing the distance and height of Mt. Logan his astonishment was great to find that the altitude of the mountain was 19,500 feet, or 1,500 feet higher than Mt. St. Elias, and 1,200 feet higher than Orizaba.

ATTACK ON THE COAST SURVEY.—Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee, made a very vigorous effort recently in the House of Representatives to dismember the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and divide the work now performed by this bureau between the Navy Department and the Department of the Interior. The pretext of the movement was on the line of economy, the real motive is factional and political. The House was not in sympathy with Mr. Enloe, and after listening for two hours to his arguments and assertions, largely outvoted him and his followers.

Mr. Enloe's objections to the present organization of the Survey are: (1) That it costs more money than it would if merged into the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department; (2) That it has never completed

and never will complete its work—statements which those familiar with the facts know to be erroneous ; (3) That ten years ago some of its methods were not beyond censure ; (4) That its principal officers are not Democrats.

As to the first objection, a Joint Commission of both houses of Congress in 1884 declared that they did not feel justified in proposing a change in the organization and methods of the Coast Survey unless the most urgent reasons therefor could be given, especially in view of the fact that those best qualified to judge who testified before the Commission, including some eminent officers of the Navy, uniformly agreed that the work should be continued under the same organization. There was nothing in the testimony offered the Commission to indicate that the work performed by the Survey could be more efficiently performed if a transfer was made, nor was it shown that the Navy could more economically execute the work.

The abolishing of the present organization and its transfer to the Navy Department would simply mean that every man from Superintendent to staker would be discharged, and a large supply of offices to be newly erected in the Navy Department would in a very short time be filled with political favorites, with men who are seeking offices. Speaking of the proposed reduction of the salary of the Superintendent, Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, well said : “ If the enemies of the bureau are to have their way and the real efficiency of the bureau is to be impaired, then cut it all you please and make it as cheap as you can ; and if you cut the salaries

down to not more than \$800 or \$1,000 a year each, you will not do more than you ought."

On four several occasions the Coast Survey has been transferred to the Navy Department, viz., in 1818, 1832, 1834 and 1836, and in each of these instances the work has been returned to the control of the civil officers of the Coast Survey, because its administration by the Navy Department was unsatisfactory.

The answer to Mr. Enloe's second objection is, that from the nature of the case, the work cannot be completed, and the interests of commerce and science require that it should not. As long as rivers shift their channels and tides form new sand bars, it will always be necessary to take soundings over and over again, by reason of the changes in the bottom of the ocean and of the streams, caused by these tides and currents. The third objection has no present application, and the fourth is not worth attention.

Since the organization of the Coast Survey in 1807, about \$30,000,000 have been expended in carrying on the work. Mr. Enloe asserted that for ten years its progress had been so infinitesimal in its character that one could not discover it. What are the facts? According to the latest report of the Superintendent, the statistics of field and office work for *one* year are: Reconnaissance,—area in square miles, 4,960. Triangulation,—area in square miles, 24,159; geographical positions determined, 693. Magnetic work,—number of stations occupied, 52. Topography,—area surveyed, 839 square miles; length of general coast, 62 miles; length of shore line, 1,224 miles. Hydrography,—number of miles run while sounding, 12,120; area sounded, 4,013

square geographical miles; number of soundings, 451,275. Seventy-two topographic maps and seventy-nine hydrographic charts were constructed during the year, and 63,152 distributed.

The work of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, for accuracy, stands higher than the work of any other similar bureau in the world. It is of the very highest order. It has been of more use to navigation and commerce and the protection of life and property than any other Department of the Government. It annually predicts the tides at all harbors and ports of importance a year in advance, and issues tables containing the times of high and low water at these points. A tide-predicting machine, the only one in this country, was invented by Mr. Wm. Ferrel of this bureau. These Tide Tables are accepted as standard authority and used all over the world. Not a vessel, American or foreign, enters or leaves a port of the United States without making use of the information gathered by this bureau.

In magnetic work, the Coast Survey observes, collects, arranges, digests and publishes information about the variation of the compass and allied matter, technical for the scientist, popular for the layman. It has done this work so long and so well, that no other agency, public or private, has attempted to rival or supplant it.

In the discussion of this subject in the House, running through two days, Mr. Outhwaite (Democrat from Ohio) said that every harbor, every river navigable for ocean commerce, every bay or gulf that has been surveyed by the bureau has needed its constant

attention since. The maps show repeated surveys and corrections. (Corrections do not here mean corrections of mistakes, but corrections due to man and nature, such as the building of piers, wharves, breakwaters, &c., and the formation of shoals, banks, bars and other obstructions to navigation.) In short, it has been the practice of this bureau, from its commencement up to this day, to be the pioneer of commerce in taking care to ascertain whether vessels can approach the shores with safety, and to map out the difficulties that lie in the way. He defended the work of the Survey on the line of economy, and showed conclusively that under the administration of the present Superintendent there had been a gradual decrease of expenditures each year. He challenged the correctness of Mr. Enloe's statements, and denied the truthfulness of every one of his assertions. "I do not hesitate to say," he said, "that there is not in this city, in the public service, a purer, more honorable, more faithful, or a more conscientious official than T. C. Mendenhall. I undertake to say that his private character is above reproach, and his public course and service is as valuable, as sterling and as earnest in a faithful desire to do the best he can for the Government as that of any man here."

Mr. Mahon, of Pennsylvania, claimed that no other Government of the world has carried forward so thorough and accurate a system of survey over so large a section of the earth and comprehending such varied and diverse typical features as those made by this bureau. That it employs fewer people, spends less money, and spends it to better advantage than any

similar bureau in the world. He intimated that the purpose of the contemplated transfer of the bureau was to get rid of a Republican office-holder.

Gen. Hooker, of Mississippi, claimed that the bureau had done more for the advancement of the commerce of the country and the advancement of science than any other sub-department of the Government.

Mr. Covert (Democrat, of New York) said the whole purpose of the movement was to cast unmerited aspersions upon a faithful officer and an efficient bureau of the Government.

Gen. Sickles characterized the work of the bureau as a monument to the successful application of scientific knowledge to commerce. He told the story of the showing made by this bureau at the International Geographical Congress in Paris, of which (at the request of the American Geographical Society) he had charge, and of the distinguished compliment paid to this work by the Lord High Admiral of the Russian Navy.

ARMY CHANGES.—Several innovations in affairs affecting officers of the army, which have quite regularly been brought forward for several years past, but failed of approval by Congress, will be attached this year to the Army Appropriation Bill in order to make success more assured. The main effort appears to be to revive the grade of Lieutenant-General, held successively by Washington, Scott, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. But to this measure other radical changes are attached.

The grade of Lieutenant-General was created for the

double purpose of making a more efficient organization for a large army in time of war, and also as a fitting recognition of those who rendered most signal and distinguished service as great leaders at such times. There does not seem to be any public demand or military necessity for the revival of the office in time of peace, but there is considerable generosity manifested in the matter by individual Senators and Members of the House. It may be that there are many good reasons why the rank of the General commanding the army should be raised above that of Major-General, but a very large proportion of those who are reasonably well acquainted with military affairs have never heard of any such reasons, and never expect to. Apparently, to avoid the objection of additional expense under our diminished revenues it is proposed that two of the present Major-Generals shall have no successors, and that several of the staff corps shall be reduced in the same manner.

The Generals affected by the proposed legislation are Schofield, Miles and Howard—all now Major-Generals. The latter reaches the age of retirement a few months hence. Generals Schofield and Miles will then be the two Major-Generals under the new law, the former ranking as Brevet Lieutenant-General. In 1895, when Gen. Schofield reaches the age of retirement, his pay will be continued at three-fourths of the pay of a Lieutenant-General, or \$7,875, instead of three-fourths of the pay of his present rank, which would be \$5,695. When General Miles becomes Brevet Lieutenant-General in 1895 he will have considerable service before reaching the age of retirement.

The other branches of the army affected by legislation proposed in this bill are the Signal Office, Medical Corps and Chaplains.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT RESEARCHES.—In the Department of Agriculture a Division has been created with a view of carrying the climatic observations of the Weather Bureau *into* the soil, where the moisture effects its work and makes its influence felt upon the plant life. The solution of the problems involved will serve to determine the adaptability of certain kinds of soil to certain crops, by which the value of land may be greatly increased. Every farmer in the land will readily appreciate the value of this investigation. Prof. Milton Whitney, formerly of Johns Hopkins University, has been designated to carry on the investigations. Mr. Whitney a few years ago prepared a special report for the Weather Bureau on "Some physical properties of soils in their relation to moisture and crop distribution."

The Department desires to secure the services of the ablest expert that can be secured to prepare monographs on grasses and to conduct correspondence on the subject. It is now known that there are more than 10,000 varieties of grasses, and it is important to the farmer who desires to get the best out of his land to know something of their relative merits and characteristics. The subject is intimately connected with the investigation of climatic influences on soil already referred to.

Mr. Black, of Georgia, "for ten minutes"—so a recent press dispatch said—"kept the House convulsed

with laughter by reading extracts from some of the pamphlets issued by the Department of Agriculture replete with technical terms and adorned with Greek and Latin root nomenclature."* He characterized the expenditure of money for such purposes as "utterly indefensible and outrageous"! The chairman of the Printing Committee replied that a bill reported by his committee was designed to correct such "abuses" by limiting the number to be printed!

Mr. Bowers, of California, defended the scientific methods of the Department, and said that in California and all over the Pacific Coast and in New Mexico and Arizona one of the most important questions was how to exterminate the gophers. That there was *no question* that means more dollars than that. He referred also to the investigations of the Department which had resulted in the destruction of the black scales which infested orange and olive trees, thereby saving millions upon millions of dollars. The wide dissemination of the results of these investigations through the publications of the Department has saved property worth more money and been of more value to the United States than the Agricultural Department will cost in the next hundred years.

THE CENSUS—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—Four quarto volumes of the final results of the Census of 1890 have thus far been published. These are, Mining Industry; Public Debt, part 1; Alaska; and Compendium, part 1.

The volumes completed but not entirely printed are:

* The pamphlets referred to were Mr. Vernon Bailey's Report on "gophers" or prairie ground-squirrels, and Dr. Fisher's Report on hawks and owls.

Population, part 1; Vital Statistics, part 1; Crime, Pauperism and Benevolence; Churches, parts 1 and 2; Manufactures, parts 1 and 2; Valuation and Taxation, part 2; Insurance, parts 1 and 2; Transportation, parts 1 and 2; Indians; Real Estate and Mortgages.

The volumes not yet ready for the printer are: Population, part 2; Vital Statistics, parts 2 and 3; Manufactures, part 3; Agriculture; Farm and Home Proprietorship and Indebtedness, 2 vols.; Statistical Atlas, and Digest.

With the scrutiny of the new Superintendent on one hand, and the illiberality of Congress on the other, it is more than probable that some of the contemplated "final results" will never be available. It will certainly be two years and probably three before the contemplated 24 volumes will be completed.

The labor and expense attending the collation and publication of such a work is enormous. Already \$10,000,000 have been appropriated, and the end is not in sight by any means. The inevitable delay in the completion of so vast an undertaking detracts immensely from its utility. Figures valuable for contemporaneous use, lose their interest as years roll by, and it may be a question whether such a mass of minute statistical detail is of value at any cost. The *Bulletins* issued by the Superintendent from time to time as the work progressed, and liberally distributed, have been extremely valuable in getting before the country the statistical information desired.

Mr. Porter, the first Superintendent of the Census, having resigned about a year ago, the services of Hon. Carroll D. Wright (fortunately for the country) were

secured. Mr. Wright has to a remarkable degree the confidence of his countrymen and of Congress. Besides the responsibility of this new charge, he is and has been for nine years (three administrations) the Commissioner of Labor, and, in addition, has rendered important aid to committees of Congress on many of the economic questions of the day.

The valuable reports of the Department of Labor are issued in two series. (1) Annual reports. (2) Special reports. Up to date the two series are as follows :

First Annual,	1886.	Industrial Depressions.
Second Annual,	1886.	Convict Labor.
Third Annual,	1887.	Strikes and Lockouts.
Fourth Annual,	1888.	Working women in large cities.
Fifth Annual,	1889.	Railroad Labor.
Sixth Annual,	1890.	Cost of Production : Iron, steel, &c.
Seventh Annual,	1891.	do. Textiles and glass.
Eighth Annual,	1892.	Industrial Education.
Ninth Annual,	1893.	Building and Loan Associations.
First Special,	1889.	Marriage and Divorce.
Second Special,	1892.	Labor Laws of States, etc.
Third Special,	1893.	Index of all reports of Labor Bureaus in the U. S.
Fourth Special,	1893.	Compulsory insurance in Germany.
Fifth Special,	1893.	Gothenburg system of liquor traffic.
Sixth Special,	1893.	Phosphate industry of the U. S.
Seventh Special,	1893.	Number out of customary employment in 1893-94.

With a multitude of responsibilities, Mr. Wright depends largely upon the loyalty of his assistants, and on none more than Mr. Oren W. Weaver, who has been his associate without intermission since the organization of his Department.

BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.—The Bureau of American Republics has inaugurated, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Ameri-

can Conference, the issue of *Monthly* Bulletins in addition to the series of Bulletins and Hand Books already in vogue, the purpose being to procure and publish information regarding different industries of the various Republics, and the possibilities of profit in their development. The first one was issued in October last, and related to "Coffee in America," the second, to "Coal and Petroleum in Colombia." The third and fourth relate to a variety of industrial subjects, such as nitrate deposits, manganese mines, railroad development, tariff charges, etc.,—very much on the plan of the Consular Reports of the Department of State. These special Monthly Bulletins are really valuable, because the articles are well condensed and furnish statements of the very latest commercial and industrial development of industries in the United States, Central and South America.

Requests for the publications of the Bureau so far exceed the number at its disposal that applicants for the regular series of Bulletins and Hand Books, Nos. 1-63 (or as many of them as are in print), are referred to the Public Printer, who supplies them at the cost of publication—prices ranging from 5 to 50 cents each.

The Catalogue of Commercial Terms (Code of Nomenclature) has been practically completed, and involves about 40,000 terms. The first volume (about 900 pp.) includes terms down to the letter "M," inclusive, embracing about 24,800 titles in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Transposition will be made into Spanish, English and Portuguese, and then to Portuguese, English and Spanish. The dictionary or code will be for sale by the Public Printer.

MONETARY CONFERENCE.—The position of this Government in regard to the reassembling of the monetary conference has been very clearly defined by the Secretary of State in his communication to the Belgian Government. In effect he said that while the United States would not take the initiative in reassembling that conference, it stood ready to join in its deliberations upon invitation of European Powers. The agitation in England and Germany in favor of a renewal of the conference is considered a good sign, and it is believed in the end will be productive of important results. While there is much diversity of opinion among Government officials as to what legislation, if any, should be passed by the United States favorable to silver as a unit of money value, there is unity of sentiment favorable to disposing of the question, if possible, by an international agreement.

MERCHANT MARINE.—According to tables published in the Antwerp *Précurseur* of recent date, the United States take the fourth rank among the nations of the world in tonnage of steamships, the third rank in tonnage of sailing vessels, and the third in steam and sail vessels combined—Great Britain and Norway and Sweden being the outranking nations. Great Britain leads in both steam and sailing vessels, but in the combination Germany, Italy, France and Russia fall far behind the United States. War ships are not included.

The recent launch of the *Dirigo*, the first American ship built of steel, is regarded as an industrial event of prime importance. The per cent. of steel vessels in the total world's tonnage has increased twelve per cent.

since 1890, but the tonnage of steel vessels has multiplied three-fold in the same period. As already stated, the launch of the *Dirigo* is the beginning of the industry in the United States. The vessel was built in Bath, Me., and bears for a name the motto of that State. She will be fitted for sea in New York. The ship is 312 feet long, has four masts, and will carry 4,500 tons of freight.

PACIFIC CABLE.—Much interest has been expressed here concerning the news from Australia that the authorities there are moving to secure cable connection with the United States *via* Samoa, Fanning Island and Honolulu to Vancouver, B. C. Since the United States surveyed the route between San Francisco and Honolulu a few years since, there has been no proposition before Congress looking to the establishment of such a line. It was then given out that the United States having furnished the necessary surveys for a cable route, construction would be left to private enterprise. Senator Morgan, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, it is now said, has no doubt this Government would be willing to co-operate with the Australian authorities to the extent of giving aid in the prosecution of the enterprise.

NOTES.—It is interesting to note that owing to the reduced *tourist travel* of the past year the sales of precious stones were correspondingly limited. Not that tourists load themselves with such articles when preparing for a tour, but that nearly all the native precious stones produced in this country are sold as

souvenirs of the localities in which they are gathered. Multitudes, of course, visited the Chicago Exposition, but the restrictions of the railroad companies were such that *tours* in connection with routes to or from that city were practically out of the question. As a result, says Dr. Day of the Geological Survey, the total gem output of the country in 1893 was several thousand dollars less than the previous year. The smallest production was in diamonds—\$125; the largest, the turquoise—\$143,136. Widely separated localities produced the two diamonds. One was found near King's Mountain, N. C., the other in the little village of Oregon, Dane County, Wis.

The development of Florida is going on at a pace scarcely credible to those at a distance from that State. Her immense phosphate industry and fruit and garden culture are drawing settlers from all parts of the country. Ten years ago the tide of immigration had scarcely reached further than the head of navigation of the St. John's River. Now nearly every part of the State is accessible and being rapidly settled, and as a phosphate producer she will soon rival South Carolina. There is no diminution of her popularity as a winter resort.

H.